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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Food & Drug Administration:

Please stop accepting nonambulatory cattle, commonly known in the industry as "downers". Animals that are too sick to stand or are injured should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.


There is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease", a disease that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.)

Also, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. This is incomprehensible cruelty.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Again, please make it unacceptable that downed animals enter the human food chain. It is necessary that we adopt higher and safer standards as we move into the 21st Century. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

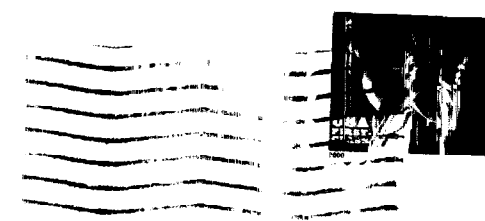
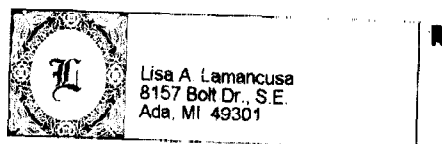
Sincerely,


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98P-0151

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